

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are pending in the present application.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 13.

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,486,961 to Szfraniec et al. (hereinafter "the Szfraniec et al. patent"). Claim 6 is an independent claim. Applicants amended claim 6 to clarify a feature that is neither described nor suggested by the Szfraniec et al. patent.

Claim 6 provides for an apparatus for determination of a property of an optical device under test. The apparatus includes, *inter alia*, an evaluation unit that uses a time-delay for compensating an external and/or an internal time-delay between a first signal and a second signal, derives a frequency dependency of the first signal, and derives an optical property of the optical device under test from the frequency dependency of the first signal.

The Office Action does not suggest, and Applicants have not found, that the Szfraniec et al. patent expressly or inherently describes the aforementioned features of claim 6. As such, Applicants submit that the Szfraniec et al. patent does not anticipate claim 6.

Claim 14 depends from claim 6. By virtue of this dependence, claim 14 is also novel over the Szfraniec et al. patent.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(e) rejection of claims 6 and 14.

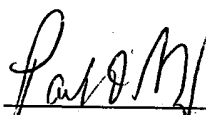
Applicants amended claim 6 to clarify a feature that is neither described nor suggested by the art of record. The amendment to claim 6 is not intended to narrow the scope of any term of any of the claims, and therefore, the Doctrine of Equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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